



Mishawaka Communicator



Working together to build the "Best Hometown in America" by delivering exceptional services, promoting safe and clean neighborhoods, elevating the quality of life, and inspiring pride in our community.

Dave Wood, Mayor

www.mishawaka.in.gov

October 2015

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood



Your Princess City government provides its services using many buildings, some of which are used well past their prime or expected service life. One of my top goals when taking this job was to improve all City facilities by the time I leave office, leaving them in better service condition than I found them. The purpose for improving our facilities is twofold; first, to streamline and optimize facilities for improved energy and operational efficiency and service potential and second, to improve user experience. We are making good progress toward this goal. In the past few years, the City has built a new fire station, renovated historic structures such as the former Main Jr. High school and acquired

facilities for adaptive reuse for our services such as the former Scott Brass/Dodge building (the subject of next month's column). We are also actively planning for the renovation of Fire Station #2 on Main Street, the Merrifield Park pool/ice rink complex, and at some point we will either need to renovate or build a new City Hall.

This fall the nearly 100-year-old Battell Center, Mishawaka's Community Building run by the Parks Department, is getting a once-in-a-generation makeover to return it to service for the next generation.

The Battell Community Center is rich in local history beginning as Battell Elementary School in 1900. The west addition facing Main Street was added in 1920, and in 1982 the City of Mishawaka purchased the facility for \$1.00 from the School City of Mishawaka, beginning its life with the City as a building open and serving the public, first with Senior programs then expanding to a multigenerational center in the past decade. Several rounds of renovations have occurred since the 1980's, with the most prominent one being the renovation of the auditorium and a new roof in 2005. Smaller updates to electric and rooms have occurred, but the Center has been in dire need of a more comprehensive overhaul since the City took possession.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 24	Beutter Park 5K (Beutter Park)
	Oktoberfest (Beutter Park)
	Movie Night "Hocus Pocus" (Beutter Park)
Oct 30	"Ghouls and Goodies" (Castle Manor)
Oct 31	Trick or Treating (5p-7p Citywide)
Nov 26-27	Thanksgiving Holiday (City offices closed)
Dec 4	Santa Arrives (Downtown)
Dec 5	WinterFest (Merrifield)

Detecting Breast Cancer Early Saves Lives

Health Information from Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center

During National Breast Cancer Awareness Month this October, remember that early detection is your best protection. Women without breast symptoms should have their first screening mammogram between the ages of 35 and 40, then yearly after the age of 40.

Breast cancer is when a cancerous tumor occurs inside the breast. One in eight women will develop breast cancer during her lifetime. Earlier detection, combined with improvements in therapy, has resulted in improved survival rates. In fact, most women who are diagnosed with breast cancer will not die of the disease. Women detect 90 percent of breast cancers themselves, often through breast self-examination (BSE).

Signs and symptoms

According to the National Cancer Institute, breast cancer is often accompanied by the following signs and symptoms:

- A lump or thickening in or near the breast or in the underarm area
- A change in the size or shape of the breast
- Nipple discharge or tenderness, or the nipple pulled back (inverted) into the breast
- Ridges or pitting of the breast (the skin looks like the skin of an orange)
- A change in the way the skin of the breast, areola or nipple looks or feels (for example, warm, swollen, red or scaly)

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TIDBITS

- Yard & regular trash will be picked up by the same truck and does not need to be separated.
- Two large items (ex. couch, chair, mattress) may be disposed of each week with regular trash pick-up. Place with regular trash for pick-up.
- Per Code Enforcement - property owners are responsible for maintaining the grass, bushes and any overgrowth into the alleys that occurs. Vehicles can be scratched (and trash and utility vehicles can be restricted access) by bushes and other growth extending out into the alleys.

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood *(continued)*

The building has many deficiencies that will be corrected over the winter, the largest being its existing heating and cooling system which consists of electric unit heaters and window air conditioners in every room leading to annual electric costs upwards of \$60,000. Other improvements include improving accessibility for the disabled, replacing the existing aluminum windows with more architecturally appropriate and energy efficient ones, creating additional restrooms, upgrading the balcony, and improving class and meeting rooms for current and future use.

One major goal of the renovation, other than those stated above, is the effort to keep and enhance the look and historical feel of the building, much like was done for the Main Junior High Apartments. This includes repairing the maple floors and installing period



correct lighting, ceilings and finishing flooring to regain the feel and look of the 1920's version of the building that has been lost over the years. Other renovations include restoring windows to the gym, creating a vehicular drop-off with a covered canopy, making a small building addition for a formal lobby, relocating and improving the fitness room, expanding the park office, and providing an additional dance room.

The heart of the Battell Center is its auditorium, which will also benefit from the renovations. By addressing code issues and reopening the balcony, 100 more seats will be available in the auditorium. We will also be completing the second phase of sound and lighting, as well as, providing a retractable screen and projector to transform the space into a movie theater for special events and new programming. Once completed, the auditorium will hold almost 500 people and be ready to provide improved productions for both our long-running performances and for attracting new uses for the community.

The project cost is approximately 2.8 million dollars with one million dollars of financing for this major improvement coming from the City's own bond bank, a revolving loan fund we utilize for significant capital purchases. The repayments of this loan from the bond bank, as well as the additional funds for the project itself, are being provided through the City's Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district. This project will not only be self-financed, but based on changes to State law, it will allow the City to keep its TIF funding intact and working for the community until 2040 when they are set to expire.

The construction is set to begin in October, with an estimated completion being May of 2016. When the doors open again, the building will be set up to serve the next generation. Mishawaka is stronger when we keep her history intact and cared for and this project is a perfect example of our City's spirit in action.

Mayor Dave Wood

Detecting Breast Cancer Early Saves Lives *(continued)*

Who's most at risk?

People with the following conditions or characteristics are at a higher than average risk for developing breast cancer:

- Women (over 99 percent of cases)
- Increased age
- History of cancer in one breast
- History of benign breast disease
- Never giving birth, or first pregnancy after age 30
- Family history (first degree relative) of breast cancer (significant for pre-menopausal women)
- Early onset of menstruation and late menopause
- High doses of ionizing radiation before age 35
- History of cancer of the colon, thyroid, endometrium or ovary
- Diets high in animal fat, excessive alcohol consumption and obesity
- Alterations in certain genes

Despite the relevance of risk factors, 70 – 80 percent of women with breast cancer have none of the known risk factors.

ONLINE ACCESS

The City of Mishawaka maintains an online presence and can be found on the web at <http://mishawaka.in.gov>.

Find us on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/cityofmishawaka>

Remember, the current issue of the Mishawaka Communicator is always available as of the 1st of every month at <http://mishawaka.in.gov/communicator>